

Harpowell Conservation Commission
Minutes for Workshop Meeting, April 14, 2009, 3:00 PM,
Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Don Jones, Burr Taylor
Absent: Ann Nemrow, Anne Perry, Tony Barrett
Guest: Marcel Polak, MEACC

Meeting called to order at 3:10 pm by M. Nahf. Minutes of March 17, 2009 approved as amended. M. Nahf motioned, D. Strachan seconded. Unanimous.

Old Business:

Action Plan Review: D. Strachan reviewed the action plan with members. Vernal pools and wetlands to resource protection area discussed. Presently somewhat protected by shoreland zoning. Question raised as to which Town Committee should update regs for wetland protection. Put that on hold for now. Conservation education deemed very important and a good lead-in to protection of wetlands. B. Taylor raised issue of water access, parking and boat landings as important item. Some re-arranging of priorities to be done.

Easements/stewardship of town lands discussed. D. Strachan to bring inventory of town lands to next meeting. M. Polak mentioned that conservation subdivision ordinance may be a good ordinance to start with. For land acquisition, an assessment of high value and high threat needs to be done. Re Funding toward future land purchases, it was suggested we meet with selectmen to get their feel for this issue. One of the main issues is whether the Town wants to own land and manage conservation land.

Conservation Easements: M. Polak has provided copies to the commission of easement language that has been used in other towns in Maine. HHLT and the Town joint stewardship has worked well in Mackerel Cove on Bailey Island.

Conservation Education: B. Taylor talked about the website Harpswell.info that he has developed and updated. Handed out outline, contents and cds of information for conservation education to HCC members. Discussed its value going forward. Agreed that this is a good source for educational information.

State Lands: Discussed the eagle scout project that a local boy scout wants to pursue. M. Nahf and C. Tukey met with him recently and discussed the land off Allen Point Rd. that is owned by the state. He wants to do a trail and/or other activities on the property. Advised him that the state owns the land and he will have to contact them directly for permission and planning. He was given a list of contact names and asked to keep us advised as he moves forward. His plan is to complete the project in two years.

Grant Application: Talked about getting funds from Quality Place Initiative. M. Nahf and D. Strachan gave an update re other surrounding towns not ready to participate with Harpswell. Since collaboration is integral to the grant, we will partner with HHLT. D. Strachan will re-write the proposal for the grant this week for the Town Administrator to review and submit.

Vernal Pools: M. Nahf gave an update of her conversations with Sewell re air photography and interpretation of data. Trying to get an estimate of the cost so we can use a dollar figure in the grant application. D. Jones will contact Jerry Bley in Readfield to get information and costs regarding the vernal pool mapping project in Readfield this week and report his findings to M. Nahf and D. Strachan. M. Polak will also talk to Bob Shafto at MEACC about possible money sources for VP mapping. We need to find funds no later than the fall in order to plan mapping for spring 2010 or it will be delayed another year.

New Business:

Talked about Hildreth Rd. walk in order to look for vernal pools. Tentative date and time set for 4/22 at 9am. Advise other members who may want to join us. Also ask Terri Sawyer to add it to Town calendar.

Tulle Frazer reports that wood frog and salamander egg masses are at the vernal pool at HHLT. DJ, MAN, DS to meet there at 3pm tomorrow to view and take pictures.

Conservation Fund. No specific fund in Town at the present time. Town treasurer has said there is no need for separate fund. Any funds specified for conservation can be identified as such when donated. D. Jones not convinced that the funds might be used for non-conservation issues and would like a separate line item. May be discussed further.

Subcommittee for open space implementation (OSIC). Agreed that OSIC should be a subcommittee of the concom. M. Nahf to advise selectmen and town administrator of our thoughts on this matter. Awaiting their approval.

Mission and goals tabled to next weeks meeting.

Election of officers for conservation commission. Talked about briefly, vote on next week at the regular meeting.

Future concom meetings. Discussed having two meetings per months the first and third Tuesday of each month. The former would be the workshop and the latter the regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned by M. Nahf at 5:10pm

Donald Jones, acting sec'y.